metro®
BOSTON Tuesday, April 16, 2013
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Hometown tragedy

Family members are reunited after the chaos that ensued when two explosions went off at the finish line. / GETTY IMAGES

Boston Marathon explosions. Three confirmed dead and more than 100 injured as two explosions rock the finish line one of the world's most prestigious road races. **The city mourns.** An 8-year-old was reportedly among the casualties and several victims had limbs amputated at the horrific scene. PAGES 02-07

1 NEWS

Chaos ensued after two explosions went off at the finish line of the Boston Marathon yesterday. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Marathon attack: Sights and sounds from the scene

The aftermath.
Runners recall the horrific scene that claimed the lives of three and injured at about 141 others.

As of last night, there were no suspects in connection with a deadly double bombing at the Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston Street.

At least 125 people ranging between 3 and 62 years old were being treated at Boston hospitals last night, with injuries ranging from burst eardrums to blown off limbs. But hours earlier at 3:30 p.m., many were blissfully unaware that twin explosions killed three people, including an 8-year-old boy, while others experienced the mayhem firsthand.

"It happened after I crossed the finish line. I got water there was a big boom and everyone went, 'Oh my God,' and I turned around and there was a big black plume. A big ball of smoke and then another one," said Jackie Fairbairn, a marathon runner from Wisconsin. Fairbairn was visibly shaken as she clutched a heatsheet, which was wrapped loosely around her shoulders.

She stood alone, directly under a "Family Meeting Area" sign with tears and concern in her eyes. "No one could figure out what was going on. I'm really worried about my kids. I'm waiting for them to find me. I was running faster [than they were]."

My husband and my 15-year-old were at the spot where [the bombs] went off. I'm waiting at the family area."

Paul Horton, of Maryville Tenn., said he crossed the finish line at 1:10 p.m., and had just stepped out of the shower at The Colonnade Boston Hotel when he heard the blasts.

"There were two booms, maybe 12 or 15 seconds apart, but pretty big blasts. I thought they were close to me, but apparently it was a couple blocks down," Horton said. "I heard all the sirens out front; I thought maybe someone got hit by a car. Six, eight, 10 ambulances went by the hotel. People were standing around everywhere on their phones. I have a buddy running, and tried to get to the finish line to catch him, but got turned away down there."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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What you need to know

Park Plaza Castle open as resource, information spot

The Castle at Park Plaza opened last night as a resource and information center for displaced residents, runners and their family and friends. There will also be information available for counseling services beginning at 9 a.m. today.

City officials said runners will also be able to pick up belongings that were left on the marathon's shuttle buses yesterday.

A crime scene perimeter has been established in the Back Bay. Today, and likely remaining for several days, Boylston Street will be closed to traffic and pedestrians from Berkley Street to Massachusetts Avenue. All side streets along Boylston Street will also be closed from Huntington Avenue to Newbury Street.

Buildings will not be accessible while the crime scene is active, according to officials, who also warned of an increased police presence today.

National Guard and other armed officers around the city and on the MBTA will be conducting random bag inspections.

Boston Public Schools are closed this week for April recess. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

In the news

23,181

23,181 runners left Hopkinton Monday morning with the goal of finishing the 117th Boston Marathon. Not all of them made it that far due to yesterday's tragic events.

Local tweet

"So proud of the people of Boston who ran toward the danger in order to help. Tragedy brings out the humanity and heroism in people. #Boston"

@MichaelChiklis on the emergency response after yesterday's attack

Gov. Patrick: 'We're going to get through this'

Response. State, federal and local officials said the investigation is active and ongoing.

Mayor Thomas Menino ended his hospital stay from a prior ankle injury to address the media about the blast yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

Officials briefed the media at The Westin Copley Place, three times in the aftermath of yesterday's bloody blasts, calling the attack "horrific," and asking the public to be vigilant as investigators try to unravel the circumstances behind the bombings.

Mayor Thomas Menino, who is wheelchair-bound due to a recent leg injury, left his stay at a local hospital to brief reporters. He called the attack a tragedy and offered condolences and prayers to the victims and their families.

"We're going to work together on this. Boston police, state police, the FBI, all agencies are committed to working together," Menino said at a 6 p.m. press conference.

Gov. Deval Patrick expressed gratitude to the emergency respondents, and also pointed to the sense of unity that quickly enveloped the Boston-area following the attack.

"There have been a number of stories of residents in Boston and along [the Marathon] route showing extraordinary kindness to runners and others shaken by this experience," Patrick said. "We're going to get through this ... We are all coming together to do everything we can to get to the bottom of this."

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said the blast was "very powerful" and that there were three casualties and several "serious injuries." Officials, he said, would not have final figures until this morning.

"This kind of event won't be taken in stride. We will turn every rock over to find out who's responsible for this," Davis said.

Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, who was near the finish lines during the blast, commended civilians who ran to help victims alongside first responders.

"Moments like this, terrible as they are, don't show our weakness, they show our strength," Conley said.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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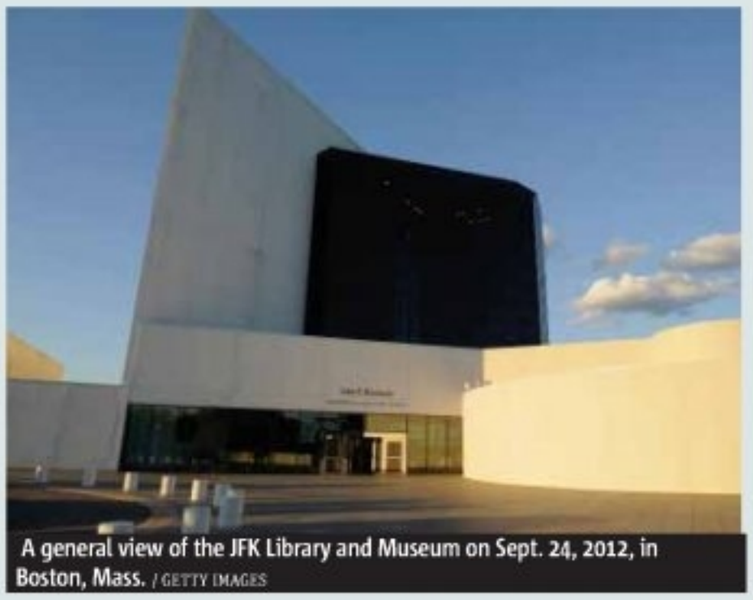
Library blaze

Was fire at JFK Library related to Marathon explosions?


A general view of the JFK Library and Museum on Sept. 24, 2012, in Boston, Mass. / GETTY IMAGES

It remained unclear late last night whether a fire at John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library and Museum on Morrissey Boulevard was related to the two explosions that killed three and injured more than 100 at the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

The fire took place just after 3 p.m.

Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis said the incident at JFK Library may have been caused by an "incendiary device."

Black smoke was seen pouring from the roof of the building.

JFK Library's official Twitter account reported that the fire was put out by 6:23 p.m..

Davis first said that Boston police were treating the situation as being related to the explosions, but later said officials were unsure if it was. He said there were no injuries reported at the library.

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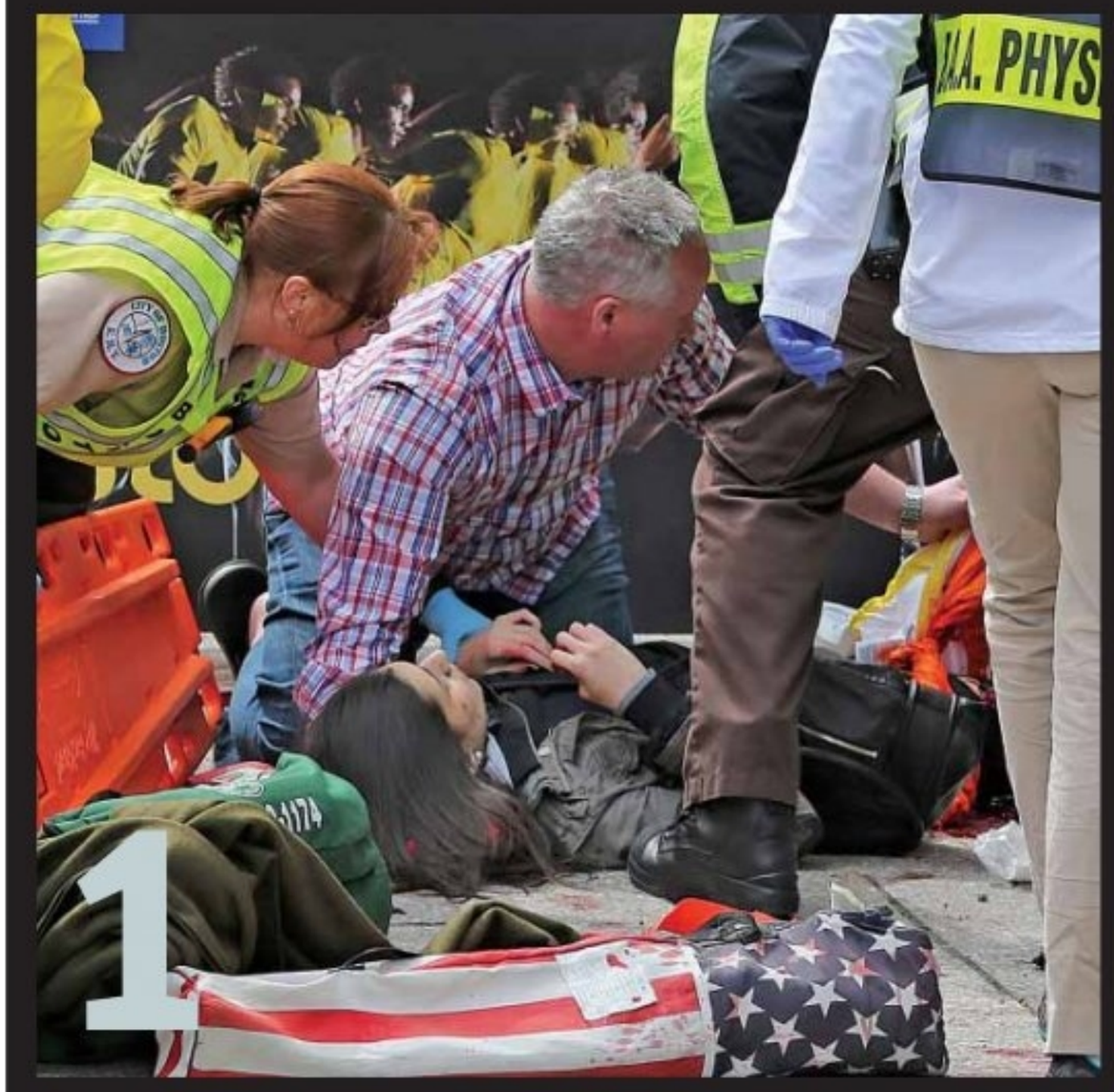
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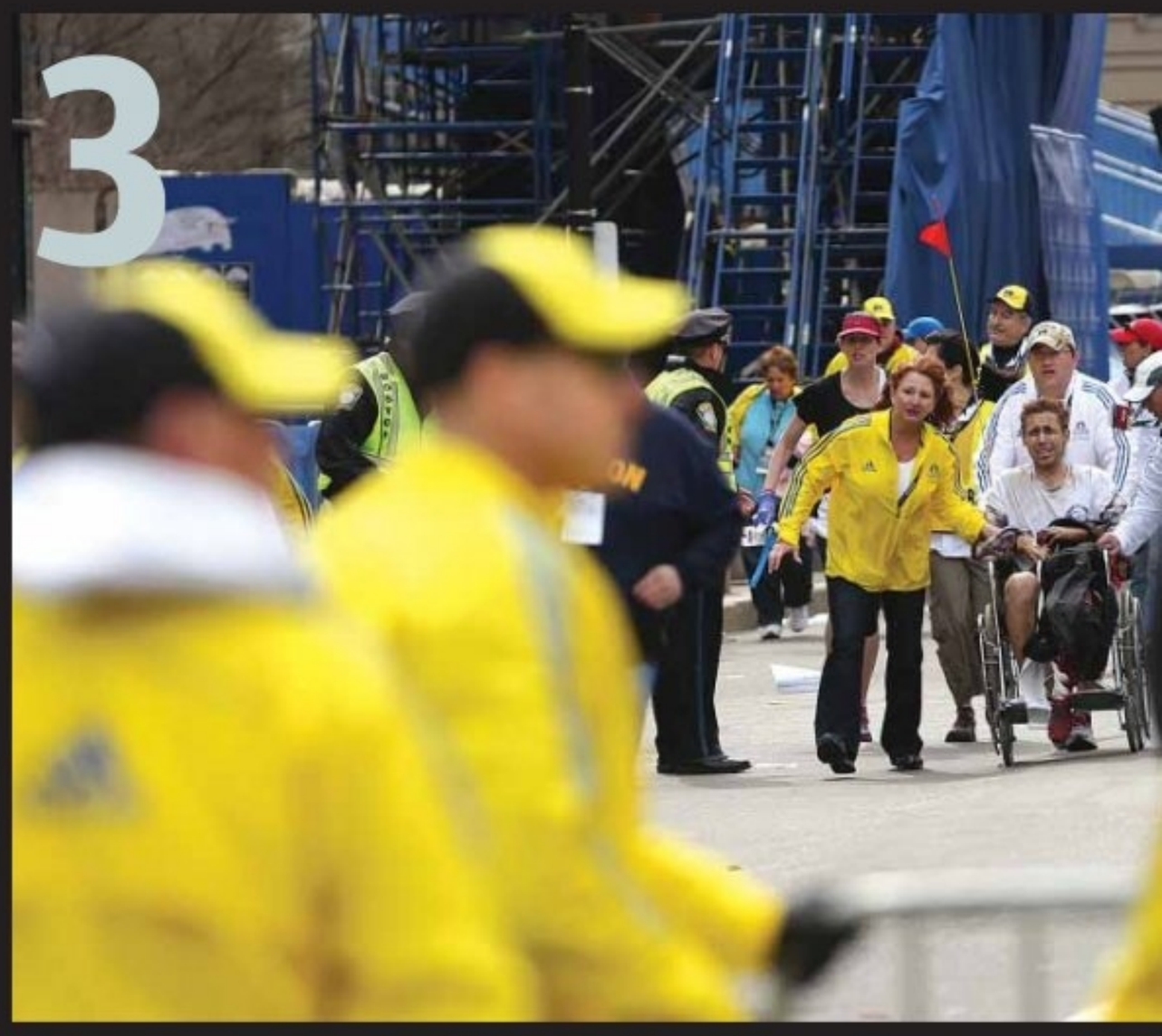
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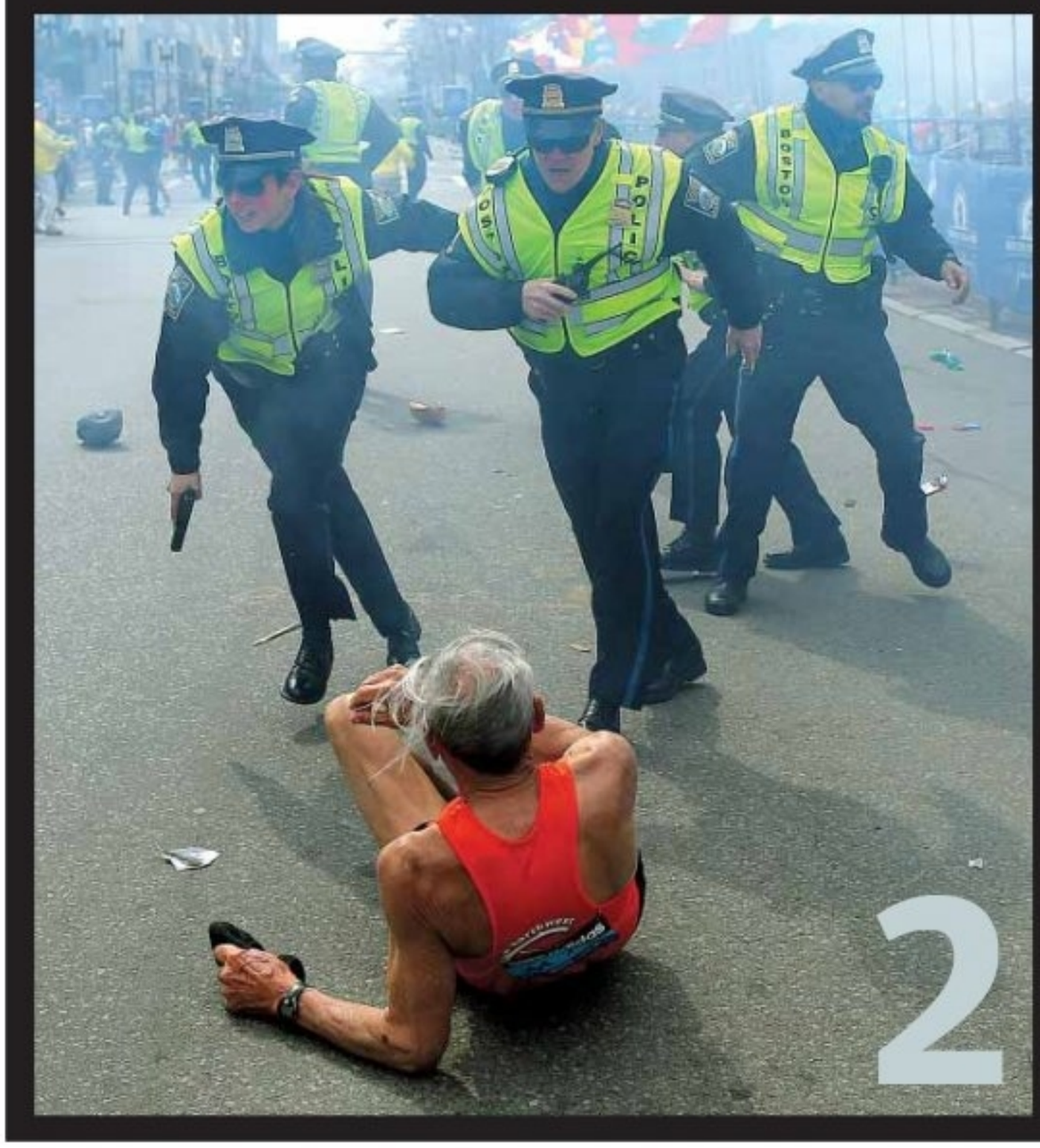
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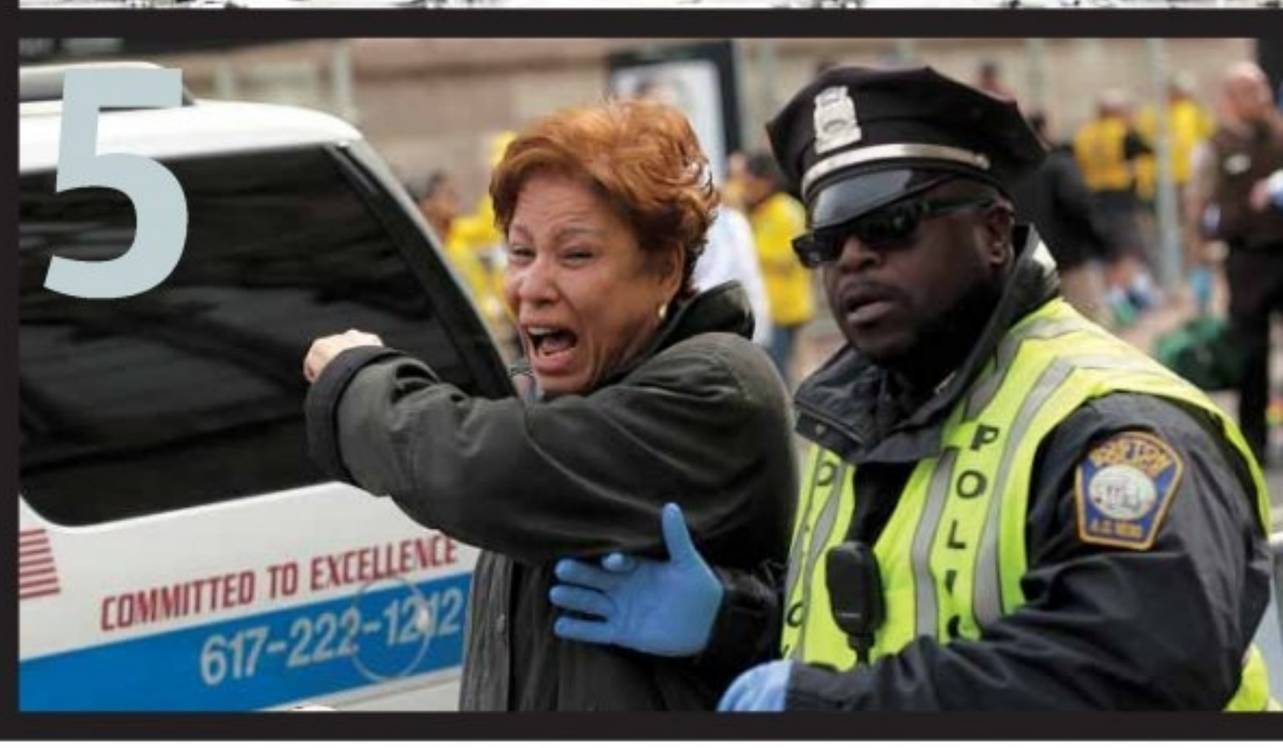
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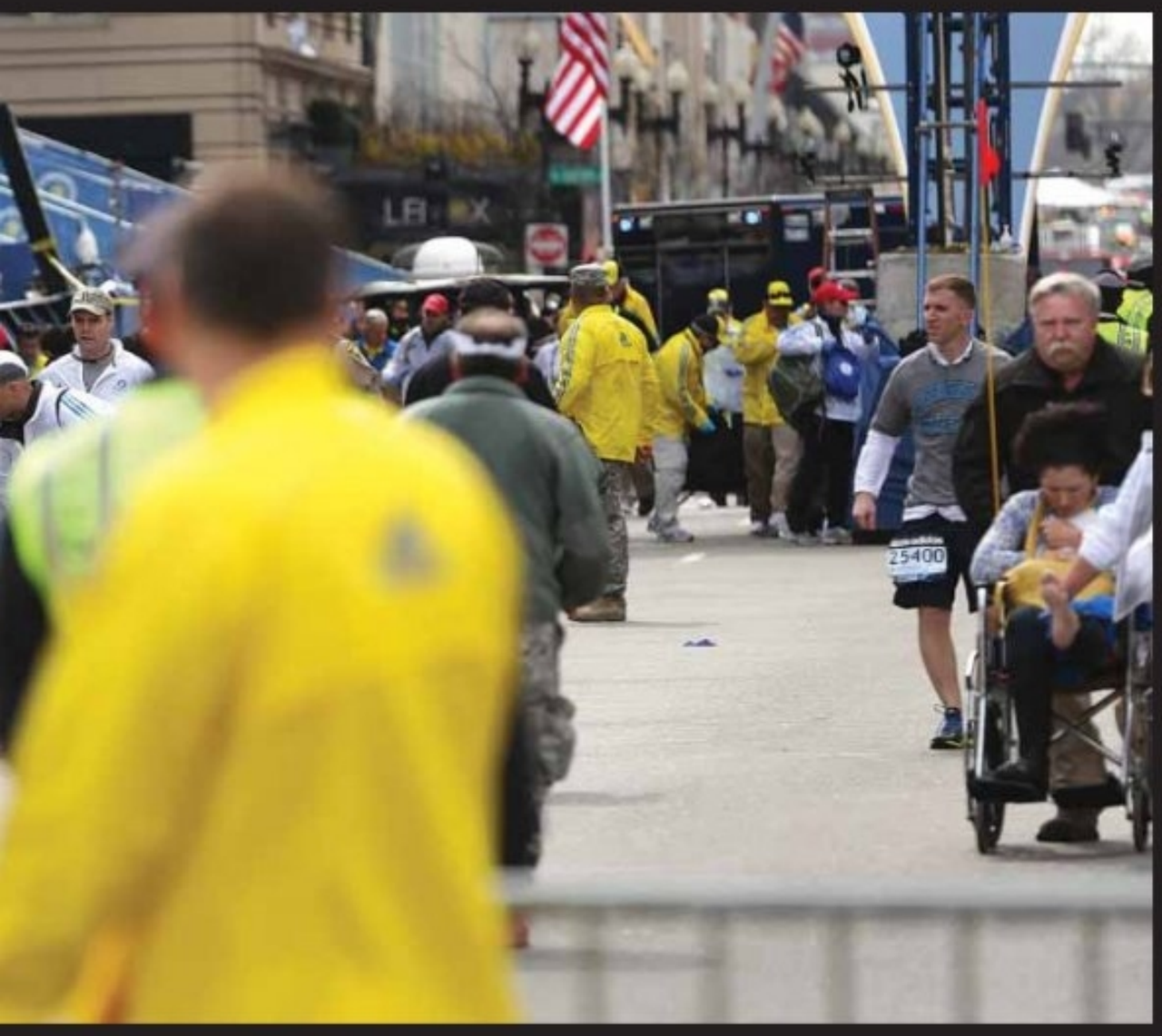
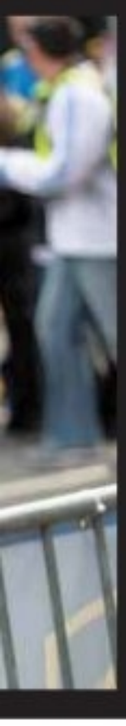




Marathon dreams become a nightmare

"Today is a holiday in Massachusetts – Patriots Day. It's a day that celebrates the free and fiercely independent spirit that this great American city of Boston has reflected from the earliest days of our nation. And it's a day that draws the world to Boston's streets in a spirit of friendly competition. Boston is a tough and resilient town. So are its people. I'm supremely confident that Bostonians will pull together, take care of each other and move forward as one proud city. And as they do, the American people will be with them every single step of the way."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

PHOTOS 1, 2: GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOS 3-9: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Three killed in Boston

Smoke billows down Boylston Street yesterday during the Marathon. / GETTY IMAGES

Boston bombings. Hundreds injured in yesterday's finish line blast as a nation wonders why.

Two blasts, three deaths and more than 100 injuries changed the face of the Boston Marathon yesterday, perhaps forever.

Around 2:50 p.m., simultaneous explosions, between 50 and 100 yards apart from each other, bellowed through the crowded finish line of the Boston Marathon. About 141 people were being treated at Boston hospitals yesterday night, including more than a dozen who were critically hurt.

One of the three dead was reportedly an 8-year-old boy.

As of last night, no suspects were in custody, and officials did not speculate as to who was responsible for the attack.

"There are a lot of questions, questions we wish we could answer," said U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz. "This is a very thorough and active and fluid ongoing investigation. A lot of information is being sought, and there has been a bit of misinformation. We don't want to add to that misinformation."

When asked if the bombings were considered a terrorist attack, Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said, "We're not being definitive on this right now. You can reach your own conclusions based upon what happened."

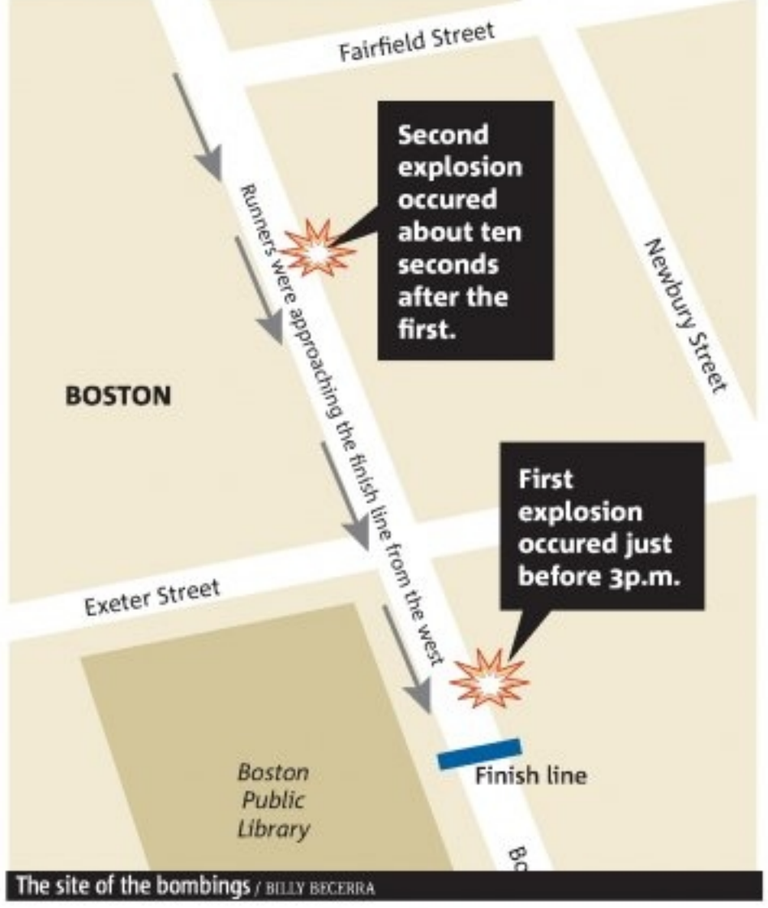
The FBI's special agent in charge Richard DesLauriers said the criminal investigation was being treated as a "potential terrorist investigation."

He also encouraged Boston residents to have a heightened state of vigilance in the coming days.

President Barack Obama called Gov. Patrick and Mayor Thomas Menino following the attacks, assuring them the cooperation of the FBI. Patrick said the state police and the National Guard were fully deployed.

Obama addressed the nation around 6:10 p.m., calling the deaths a "senseless loss."

"We still do not know who did this or why. And people shouldn't jump to conclusions before we have all the facts. But make no mistake — we will get to the bottom of this," Obama said. "And we will find out who did this; we'll find out why they did this. Any responsible individuals, any responsible groups will feel the full weight of justice."


Fairfield Street
Second explosion occured about ten seconds after the first.
Runners were approaching the finish line from the west
Newbury Street
BOSTON
First explosion occured just before 3p.m.
Exeter Street
Boston Public Library
Finish line

The site of the bombings / BILLY BECERRA

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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By the numbers

141

About 141 people were being treated at Boston hospitals yesterday night, including more than a dozen who were critically hurt.

3

Three people were killed, according to Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis. One of them was reportedly an 8-year-old boy.

4

Massachusetts General Hospital treated 29 victims, four who suffered "traumatic amputations of their legs," according to Dr. Alasdir Conn, chief of Emergency Services.

8

Boston Children's Hospital said Monday evening that it was treating eight patients whose conditions ranged from good to serious. They included a 2-year-old boy with a head injury who was in the medical/surgical intensive care unit and a 9-year-old girl with leg trauma who was in surgery.

28

Brigham and Women's Hospital treated 28 patients. A hospital statement said nine people had surgery, among them two patients with "injuries that are potentially limb-threatening."

23

Boston Medical Center was treating 23 patients, most with lower leg injuries, according to a statement. Seven were listed in fair condition and 16 in serious condition.

Marathon bombings

The president speaks

Obama: 'American people will say a prayer for Boston tonight'

President Barack Obama addressed the nation and promised justice in a televised address Monday night, after three people were killed at the Boston Marathon.

"The American people will say a prayer for Boston tonight," the president said.

Obama was briefed by the FBI and his Homeland Security team, and pledged to provide any federal resources.

"On days like this, there are no Republicans or Democrats, but Americans united in their concern." The president did not characterize the explosions as terrorism, but a White House official later said the situation was being handled as "an act of terror."

"We still do not know who did this or why. ... People should not jump to conclusions before we know the facts," Obama said. "Make no mistake, we will get to the bottom of this. We will find out who did this and why they did this. Any responsible groups will feel the full weight of justice."

The president noted that yesterday was Patriots Day, a holiday that "celebrates the free and fiercely independent spirit that this great American city of Boston has reflected from the earliest days of our nation."

AMANDA ART

Twitter reacts

"The thing about #bostonmarathon is, it's one of the few Boston traditions that's as much about the rest of the world as it is about #Boston."
@CAULKTHEWAGON

"Thanks to generosity of volunteer blood donors there is currently enough blood on the shelves to meet demand. #BostonMarathon"
@REDCROSS

Exhaling. So thankful my pal is ok but wow, my heart hurts for everyone. #bostonmarathon"
@JENRAD

"There was an explosion by the finish line about 5 minutes after I finished- I'm ok but I'm sure there are many hurt."
@JOEYMCINTYRE

"People running and raising money for charity targeted in this way is awful, simply feel sick to bottom of my stomach #Bostonmarathon"
@GOODSHEPHERD

"Don't let some sh*t head(s) take your faith in humanity. Countless people are doing heroic things right now to restore it. #bostonmarathon"
@THESCOTTBISHOP

Runner 'just got a ghastly feeling'

At the Hotel Comm on Commonwealth Avenue, the lobby was teeming with detoured runners yesterday afternoon, most on mobile devices, eager to assure their loved ones they were OK after a series of blasts had been reported at the Boston Marathon.

Peregrine Hood, a runner from London, said he was just coming up to Boylston for the final stretch when he knew something was wrong.

"I was getting ready to finish when I heard a bang," he said.

"The headphones were on, the euphoria was setting in and then I just got a ghastly feeling that something was wrong. Then there was massive confusion, people running, so I just stopped and started moving away."

A spectator and runner / JOHN TLUMACKI, THE BOSTON GLOBE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Hood said his first reaction was, "Oh my God. My girlfriend is in the finisher's box."

"She said she literally ran for her life," reported Hood. "There was a terrible uncertainty for about 30 minutes."

Hood said the scene quickly became grim.

"This is a great day in Boston and everyone's merry, but then there was just a certain panic and it turned into what looked like a refugee camp," he said. LINDA LABAN

Big day for Boston

Patriots Day in Boston one of busiest days of year in city

Patriots Day has long had a special meaning in Massachusetts as the Commonwealth celebrates the anniversary of the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

School vacation is scheduled across the state this week and many students come to Boston, Lexington and Concord to participate and view reenactments of war battles. Many local businesses close on the third Monday in April in honor of Patriots Day as well.

The Boston Marathon is run every year on Patriots Day as the day is also known as Marathon Monday to many in and around the city.

The Boston Red Sox also have a unique tradition on Patriots Day, hosting an MLB game at Fenway Park that begins each year at 11:05 a.m. in order for fans to walk from the park to close-by Marathon sight lines in and around Kenmore Square when the game is over. Depending on when the third Monday in April falls, the Bruins and Celtics have also held playoff games on Patriots Day, making it one of the busiest days of the year in the city. The Boston Bruins postponed their regular season game against the Senators Monday night and the Boston Celtics canceled their regular season game against the Pacers, which was to be held tonight at TD Garden.

MATT BURKE

Who would do this?

Searching for a suspect

Several media outlets reported that authorities were interviewing at least one person of interest yesterday night, but officials would not confirm those reports.

In an interview with CNN, Rep. Michael McCaul said that at least one person was in custody, but did not elaborate.

CNN later reported that authorities were looking for a foreign national with "darker skin" and backpack.

The New York Post cited law enforcement sources in its report that a 20-year-old Saudi national was under guard at an undisclosed Boston hospital and Fox News reported that the person had suffered severe burns.

The man was caught less than two hours after the bombing, the Post reported, but authorities would not confirm that.

The Los Angeles Times also cited a federal law enforcement official in its report of authorities questioning a Saudi national hospitalized with injuries. The person was not identified as a suspect.

A very large police presence was seen outside Massachusetts General Hospital just before 8 p.m., including an armed SWAT vehicle and several heavily armed guards.

However, those authorities dispersed a short time later.

Metro could not confirm whether any persons of interest were being treated at any Boston hospitals last night.

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Conflict. North Korea issues new threats on founder's birthday

North Korea made new threats of military action yesterday as the reclusive nation celebrated the anniversary of its founder's birth, stoking tension on the peninsula with a new "ultimatum" to South Korea in the standoff over its nuclear program.

The latest statement from Pyongyang followed threats of nuclear attacks on the United States, South Korea and Japan, after new U.N. sanctions were imposed in response to Pyongyang tested a nuclear weapon in February.

"Our retaliatory action will start without any notice from now," North Korea's state news agency KCNA said yesterday, noting actions would "start immediately."

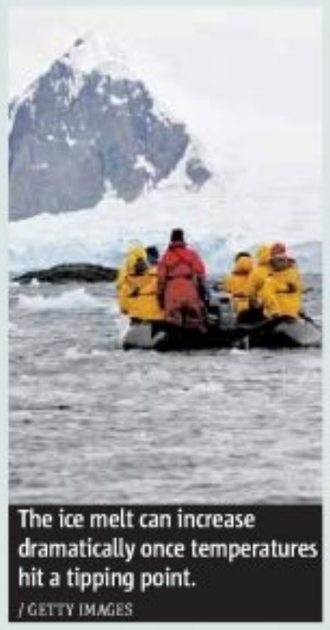
The statement was issued by the official North Korean news agency KCNA after signs that Pyongyang may be presenting a less warlike stance on the "Day of the Sun," the date the North's founder Kim Il-Sung was born. Although many Pyongyang watchers had expected a big military parade to showcase North Korea's armed forces, the day was marked in Pyongyang with a festival of flowers named after Kim.

The United States has offered talks, but on the precondition that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions. North Korea deems its nuclear arms a "treasured sword" and has vowed never to give them up. Nevertheless, Secretary of State John Kerry, ending a trip to the region dominated by concern about North Korea, stressed his interest in a diplomatic solution. **REUTERS**

Dozens of South Korean activists hold anti-North Korea placards and chant slogans during an anti-Pyongyang rally in Seoul yesterday.
GETTY IMAGES

Global warming

Scientists find Antarctic summer ice is melting faster


The ice melt can increase dramatically once temperatures hit a tipping point.
/ GETTY IMAGES

The summer ice melt in parts of Antarctica is at its highest level in 1,000 years, Australian and British researchers reported yesterday, adding new evidence of the impact of global warming on sensitive Antarctic glaciers and ice shelves.

Researchers from the Australian National University and the British Antarctic Survey found data taken from an ice core also shows the summer ice melt has been 10 times more intense over the past 50 years compared with 600 years ago.

"It's definitely evidence that the climate and the environment is changing in this part of Antarctica," lead researcher Nerilie Abram said.

Abram and her team drilled a 400-yard deep ice core on James Ross Island, near the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, to measure historical temperatures and compare them with summer ice melt levels in the area.

They found that, while the temperatures have gradually increased by 2.9 degrees Fahrenheit over 600 years, the rate of ice melting has been most intense over the past 50 years.

That shows the ice melt can increase dramatically in climate terms once temperatures hit a tipping point. **REUTERS**

IS CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN AFFECTING YOUR DAILY LIFE?

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Opinion. Pew research poll says Americans' faith in feds at record low

Americans' opinion of the federal government has fallen to a record low even as they continue to view local and state governments favorably, according to Pew Research Center survey released on Monday.

Just 28 percent of Americans rate the government in Washington favorably, the lowest percentage ever in a Pew survey and down 5 percentage points from a year ago, Pew said in a statement.

The favorability rating has fallen steadily from a high of 82 percent in November 2001, after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. **REUTERS**

G20 summit

President Obama to meet with Putin in Russia in September

President Barack Obama will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in September when he travels to Russia for the G20 summit, the White House said yesterday.

The United States is pressing Russia to use its influence to help reduce tensions with North Korea. Washington and Moscow are also at odds over the civil war in Syria. The announcement of the September meeting came after Obama's national security adviser Tom Donilon held discussions with Putin and other leaders during a trip to Russia. **REUTERS**

US Supreme Court declines to hear NY gun rights case

Gun control is currently in the public eye following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Newtown, Conn., four months ago.
GETTY IMAGES

Guns. The decision not to hear the New York case does not mean it could not take up the same legal question later.

Staying out of the raging national debate over guns, the Supreme Court yesterday declined to weigh in on whether gun owners have a constitutional right to carry handguns outside the home.

The court decided not to hear a challenge to a New York state law that requires those who want to carry a concealed handgun to show they have a special reason before they can get a license.

The gun owners challenging the law said that the right to bear arms enshrined in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is not limited to the right to keep a handgun at home.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has expanded gun rights, first by finding in the 2008 District of Columbia v. Heller case that the Second Amendment guaranteed an individual right to bear arms and then ruling two years later in McDonald v. City of Chicago, that the earlier ruling applied to the states.

Gun control is currently in the public eye following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Newtown, Conn., four months ago, and President Barack Obama's subsequent decision to push for legislation to curb gun violence.

The Senate begins debate on Monday on gun control legislation that would expand background checks for gun buyers. **REUTERS**

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1 Sharon Osbourne FINALLY got fed up with Ozzy?

Everyone's favorite heavy metal couple, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, are reportedly well on their way to splitting up, according to Radar Online. While Ozzy is said to be living in a rented Beverly Hills mansion, Sharon has been staying at the Beverly Hills Hotel since at least the beginning of this month, sources say. "They are living at different addresses and not spending any time together," a source recently told the Sun. Sharon is believed to be staying at the famous hotel while she decorates a new home — but not the one where Ozzy is staying.

So what is it that put Sharon over the edge? She's been with him since she was 18; she's put up with him biting heads off of bats, dabbling in the occult, locking himself in hotel rooms to binge on drugs and alcohol for months at a time, trying to strangle her(!) — you know, the usual marital complaints. If that didn't break their marriage, what did? Did Ozzy just not recognize Sharon's face anymore? (Actually, my money is on this theory.) For his part, son Jack Osbourne tweeted that this gossip is "bulls—."

Real Husband Kevin Hart arrested

Comedian Kevin Hart was arrested for driving under the influence early Sunday morning in Los Angeles, and he wasn't shy about sharing the details after posting bail. "I'm officially a thug. I spent six hours in jail last night," Hart announced on Twitter. "This cop was the worst. He knew who I was and wanted to make an example of me. ... When the cop asked me to take the sobriety test, I said, 'What, waste our time? I'm drunk, man.'" Hart did also offer some more serious reflection on the night's events: "This is a wake-up call for me. I have to be smarter, and last night I wasn't."

No kiddos for DeGeneres and de Rossi

Portia de Rossi tells Out magazine that she and wife Ellen DeGeneres have absolutely no plans to start a family, despite pressure from friends and loved ones. "You have to really want to have kids, and neither of us did. So it's just going to be me and Ellen and no babies," de Rossi tells the magazine. "There comes some pressure in your mid-30s, and you think, 'Am I going to have kids so I don't miss out on something that other people really seem to love?' Or is it that I really genuinely want to do this with my whole heart? I didn't feel that my response was 'yes' to the latter." Dina Lohan, are you listening?

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2 Lohan's family bonds at Coachella

Lindsay Lohan hit up the first weekend of the Coachella music festival, and despite some former pals being worried for her life if she attended, she seemed to come out of the fest just fine. Lohan was spotted with her 16-year-old brother, Cody, in tow, and sources tell E! News that the troubled actress was aiming for "a healthy, fun time at Coachella" before heading to her court-ordered 90-day rehab stay next month.

I mean. I just. Ugh. I can't. Stay with me here, reader: If the entire world thinks you are a terrible mother (we're talking about you, Dina Lohan), wouldn't you not send your 16-year-old to a drug-filled rock festival with your known-addict daughter? Wouldn't you take a minute to think about how that appears to the world at large?

I give up. Someone come over here and take me to lunch and get me a job in hotel/restaurant management, because I'm done writing about this family.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Banks likes Brad Pitt's voice, Mindy Kaling is handing out career advice, Albert Brooks doesn't have a joke for this and Kevin Nealon is redecorating.

@ElizabethBanks: Huh, Brad Pitt would make an amazing radio man. Ah, but a waste of that face.

@mindykaling: If Kobe retires he should make movies with cartoon characters like Rocky & Bullwinkle

@AlbertBrooks: Justin Bieber said he hoped Anne Frank would have been a fan. I really want to kill myself.

@kevin_nealon: Replacing all the mirrors in my house with various people who just tell me I look tired and pasty.

The nameless protagonist in Pakistani native Mohsin Hamid's third novel, "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia," leaves his poor village behind for the glamor of the big city. Written in the style of a self-help book, the story traces the boy's transformation from a simple rural boy to a swank urban tycoon. Along the way, Hamid's funny, poignant novel explores Asian urbanization, materialism, love and loss.

Can you tell us a bit about your inspiration?
I wanted to write a novel about the huge changes in Asia and much of the world. Billions of people are moving out of the countryside, moving to huge cities, and starting new lives in a new urban environment. The city I was born in had about a million people when I was born 41 years ago, and it has 10 million today. The same thing that happened to America in the 20th century, when people were leaving the countryside for the cities, is now playing itself out in Asia, Latin America and Africa. There are more economic opportunities in the city.

Not many books are written in the second person. What was your reason for this?
On the surface, the novel is about urbanization and the ferociousness of the market. But underneath that, it is a spiritual quest — how does one find happiness in the midst of this dislocation and materialism? It is really about trying to find some antidote to the anxiety we all feel. It was important for me to be able to talk to the reader. It allows a kind of honesty between us.

What about the character of "the pretty girl"? She's an important thread throughout the book.
She is the boy's female counterpart. She's living in a slum and wants to get out and eventually works her way up and starts her own business. She's ferociously independent, but still has the need for connection and intimacy. There are more and more women breaking away from cultural traditions, and the changing the economy allows them to make a living. She's part of that trend.

What are your attitudes about this cultural shift?
The market is essentially about self-centeredness, but life is also about loss. We need some narrative about loss — previously our traditional folk stories or religion provided this, but if we're leaving behind our villages, can stories do the same? This novel is an exploration of that. One way we center ourselves is love. It can be romantic love, children, it can be a cause.

NATALIE SHURE
letters@metro.us

MOHSIN HAMID

Written in the style of a self-help book, "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia" traces one boy's transformation from a simple rural boy to a swank urban tycoon.

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Kami Rushell Smith, left, shines as the title character in "Meet Vera Stark." Kelby T. Akin, center, plays Brad Donovan, and Gregory Balla, right, delivers the show's funniest performance. / MARK S. HOWARD

'By the Way,' fix the first act

Theater review. The latest from the Lyric could be great, but "Stark" takes too long for the action to begin.

It wouldn't take much editing to turn "By the Way, Meet Vera Stark" into a smart comedy that examines racial stereotypes in Hollywood circa 1933. Get rid of the tedious first act, the intermittently plodding dialogue and the bad, formulaic sketch comedy feel of the story's setup, and let the action begin.

Act Two of the Lyric Stage Company's current production of "Vera Stark" is definitely worth seeing. A multitude of great comic moments, poignant scenes, a delightfully cheesy talk show and a riotous catfight make for great theater.

Unfortunately, getting there is like going to a concert with a bad opener. You just sit there waiting for the fun to begin.

Playwright Lynn Nottage's premise is great: a maid who tends to every whim of a pampered Hollywood actress while trying to make her own way into the film business. But its execution falls flat despite the best efforts of director Summer L. Williams and an impressive ensemble.

Kami Rushell Smith shines as the faded, booze-fueled actress Vera Stark, desperately trying to prove herself 30 years later. Her portrayal of the younger version of herself, however, feels cartoonish and one-dimensional as a direct result of the script's shortcomings.

Terrell Donnell Sledge's character is the only one with any substance in Act One. Evelyn Howe also brings much-needed comic relief to her role. Both fare equally well in Act Two as academics studying Vera Stark.

Hannah Husband's portrayal of "America's little sweetie-pie" Gloria Mitchell falters until she's a surprise guest on "The Brad Donovan Show," where Gregory Balla delivers the show's funniest performance as rocker Peter Rhys-Davies.

NICK DUSSAULT
letters@metro.us

Plot points

A secret scheme

In 1933, every actor in Hollywood wants in on the upcoming epic "The Belle of New Orleans." Though African-American maid Vera Stark professes to be helping her employer nab the leading role, she is secretly scheming her way onto the big screen as well.

If you go

'By the Way, Meet Vera Stark'

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TV picks

SPECIAL

'In Performance at the White House'

Justin Timberlake, Alabama Shakes, Queen Latifah and plenty of others converge to celebrate Memphis soul music from the 1960s, with Booker T. Jones serving as the event's band leader. **8 P.M., PBS**

REALITY

'Don't Be Tardy...'

Kim Zolciak and her hubby are welcoming a new baby and her mom demands visitation rights. We just want to know what song will join the ranks of "Don't Be Tardy for the Party" and "Google Me." **SEASON PREMIERE, 9 P.M., BRAVO**

COMEDY

'Awkward'

Season 3 of this acclaimed show opens with Jenna thinking about what awaits her after high school and what it means when a classmate commits suicide. We said this is a comedy, right? **SEASON PREMIERE, 10 P.M., MTV. MATTHEW JACOBS**

"Don't Be Tardy" for the season premiere of "Real Housewives" star Kim Zolciak's spin-off reality series. / FILMMAGIC

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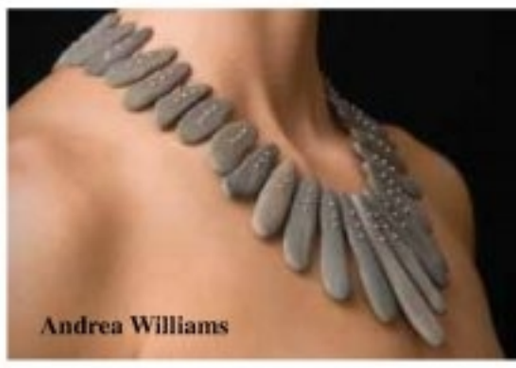

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On the MTV Movie Awards red carpet

1 Rebel with a cause

Host Rebel Wilson picked up a trophy for Best Breakthrough Performance for her role in "Pitch Perfect." (PHOTO BY KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES)

2 Orange you glad to see Kerry?

Kerry Washington wore an orange and black frock to Sunday's show. (PHOTO BY JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES)

3 Ke$ha goes goth

Oh, Ke$ha. (PHOTO BY JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES)

4 Snoop: Big pimpin'

Only Snoop Dogg — er, sorry, Snoop Lion — could rock a red fur coat like this. (PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC)

5 No butts about it

We don't really know what to make of actress Hana Mae Lee's outfit. But you know what they say: There's no such thing as bad publicity! (PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC)

6 Justin who?

Selena Gomez radiated class in this grown-up getup. (PHOTO BY KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES)

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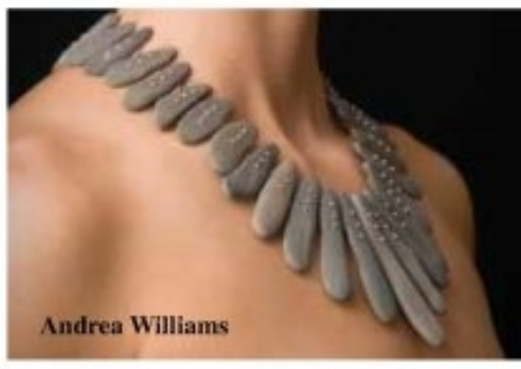

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Five unique festivals to check out

1 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

The largest hot air balloon festival in the world offers nine days of colorful fun for spectators come October. It began in 1972 with the launch of 13 balloons from a shopping-mall parking lot. Today attendees can take in the spectacular site of hundreds of balloons floating into the heavens. Check out the Special Shape Rodeo for balloons in the shape of Jaws, Darth Vader, Humpty Dumpty and other characters. And why not hitch a ride? You know what they say: When in Albuquerque ...

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2 Po'Boy Festival

New Orleans is known for the booze and beads of Mardi Gras, but for a more authentic taste of the Big Easy, check out the Po'Boy Festival in November. Festivalgoers gather on Oak Street for a daylong celebration of the city's iconic submarine sandwich, filled with Louisiana hot sausage, fried shrimp or oysters, and root beer-glazed ham. Or try a souped-up banh mi po'boy adapted by New Orleans' Vietnamese families. Once you've had your fill, you can dance the night away in the streets.

3 Food and Wine Classic

Aspen is a posh mountain setting that's spectacular in the summer. With tastings and cooking demonstrations, this iconic weekend food fest held in June is a "sun-up to sun-down paradise for food and wine lovers," says Nancy Wall Hopkins, senior deputy food and entertaining editor for Better Homes and Gardens. "But it's not for lightweights or beginners," she adds. "I go with my smartest foodie friends to learn, savor, trade food secrets, and hang with the brightest food minds." The caveat? Tickets are $1,250 each.

4 Music City Festival & BBQ Championship

Nashville has an amazingly rich musical history, and locals proudly celebrate that tradition during this annual August event. Of course you can check out live music any night of the week in Nashville, but there's something special about enjoying it on the banks of the Cumberland River with the buzz of the crowd. And aspiring chefs can take part in the barbecue competition, so now's the time to perfect that special sauce.

PLUS

And one more

Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo

One of the best places to celebrate Cinco de Mayo (north of the border) is positively San Diego from May 3 to 5. Fiesta Old Town is a three-day street fair with exhibitions, performances, carnivals and a party-hearty atmosphere.

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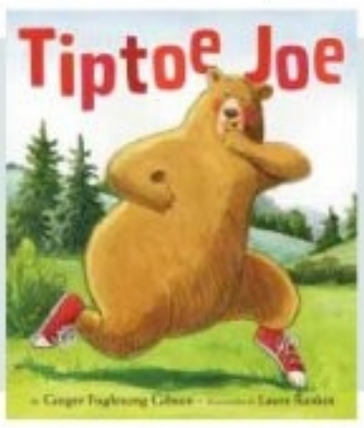
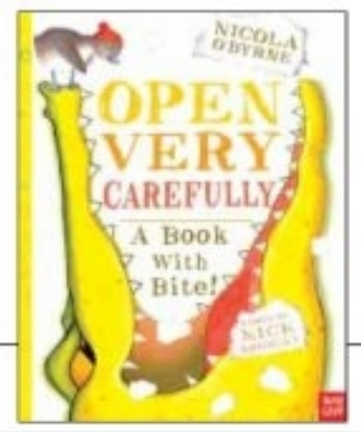


1 'Tiptoe Joe'

Read along as Beaver ("Slap! Slap"), Moose ("Thud! Thud!"), Turkey ("Flap! Flap!") and other friends of the forest follow the quiet Tiptoe Joe and his red sneakers on a trek to see a little secret nestled deep into the woods.

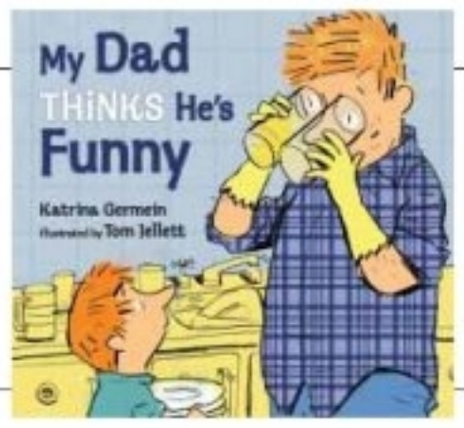
2 'Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite!'

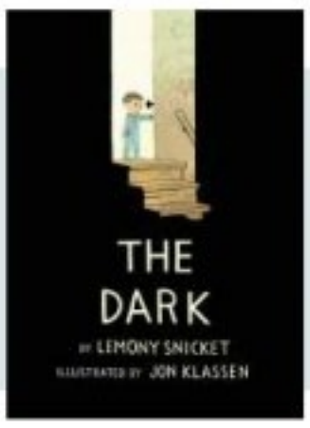
A wily crocodile finds his way into what should be "The Ugly Duckling" and overtakes the pages — gobbling up letters, then whole words, then complete sentences until you and your little one are instructed to shake the book to have him fall out. But what if he doesn't? Luckily, he's a hungry crocodile and will munch his way out of there.



3 'My Dad Thinks He's Funny'

This delightful little book of a dad being corny (with the eyerolls of his son to prove it) is the perfect Father's Day gift for any dad who considers himself a jokester — and the kid who maybe thinks otherwise.





4 'The Dark'

The collaboration nerds (and their children) the world over have been waiting for, "The Dark" features text by best-selling author Lemony Snicket with genius drawings by Jon Klassen (the mastermind behind the instant classic "I Want My Hat Back") about a little boy who learns how to live with the unknown.

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Spring staples. We've rounded up the best value versions of recession-proof classics that we guarantee will never go out of style.

1 The shirt

Zara twill shirt
$60, www.zara.com

2 The desert boots

Clarks Originals suede desert boots, $131, www.asos.com

3 The jeans

Edwin ED80 slim-fit jeans, $200, www.mrporter.com

4 The suit

J.Crew Ludlow jacket, $525, www.jcrew.com; J.Crew Ludlow trousers, $265, www.jcrew.com

5 The Mac

A.P.C. Homme Structured Mac, $470, www.apc.fr

6 The T-shirt

Topman white scoop neck T-shirt, $14, www.topman.com

7 The brogue

Loake Chester brogue, $314, loake.co.uk

8 The knit

Muji crew neck, $54, www.muji.us

9 The chino

Ben Sherman EC1 slim chino, $225, www.ben sherman.com

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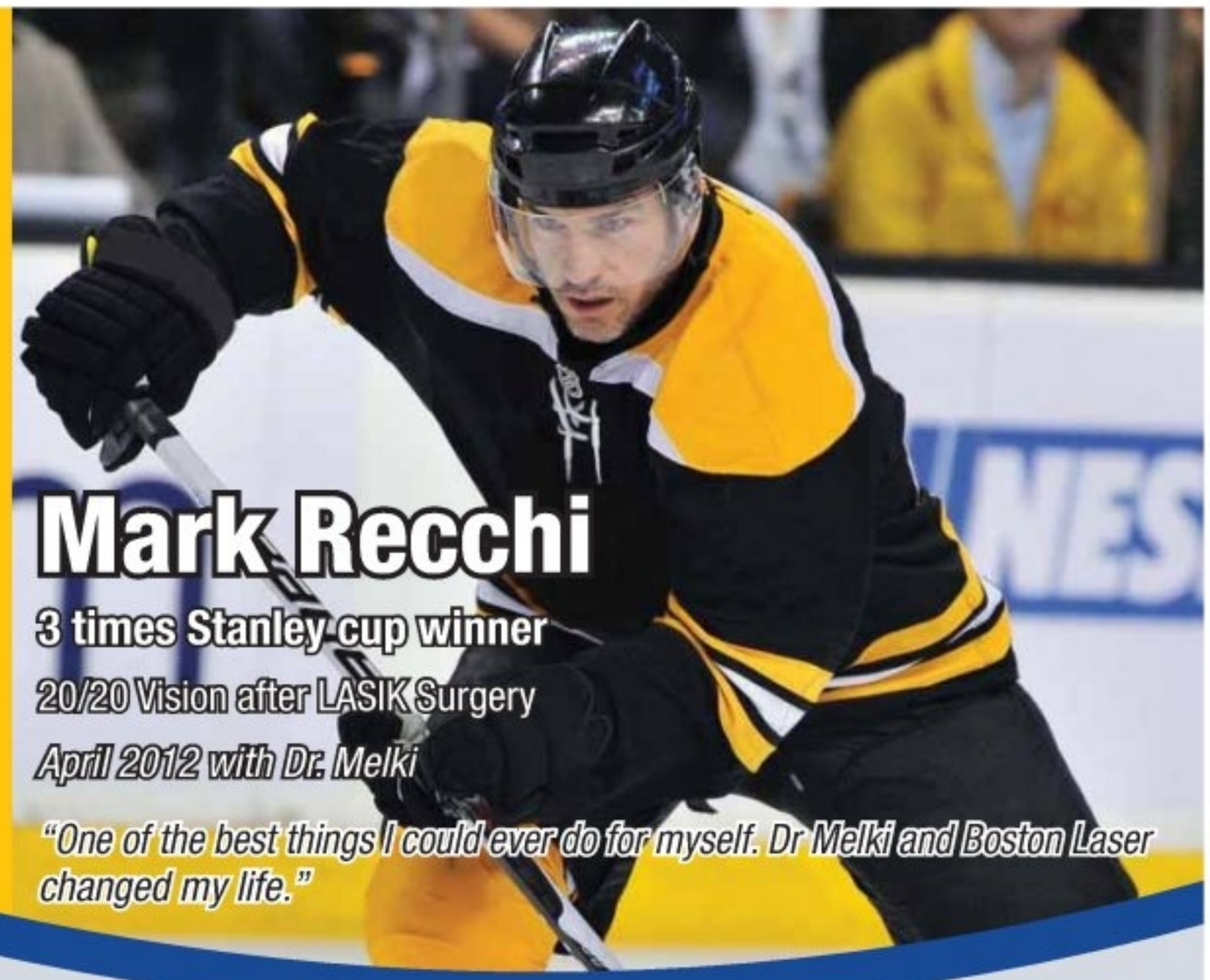

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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. To achieve some of your bigger objectives, you might have to do things in a circuitous way. Just be sure not to charge into walls, hoping they will crumble on impact.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Argumentative individuals will frustrate you, but the solution is obvious. Don't involve yourself with companions who overreact to a difference of opinions.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Take nothing for granted in both your commercial and personal dealings. If you play things too loose, you might think you have an agreement when all you've got is maybe.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. To get along well with someone who is pertinent to your plans, it might be necessary for you to make some concessions.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. When sharing a job with others, be sure that no one person has more work to do than the others. Each must do his or her share.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Be prepared to operate on your own if it becomes necessary. A friend upon whom you can usually depend might let you down.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Be a good sport and pick up all the pieces after someone's temper tantrum. This person needs to be consoled, not chastised.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. It's rarely a good idea to get angry with someone just because he or she disagrees with you. It's important to keep an open mind and a forgiving heart.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Guard against inclinations to suddenly change course, especially when your goal is within reach. A shift in direction will do nothing except take you off track.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. If you are not successful, it isn't due to a lack of good ideas. Although your imagination is excellent, your implementation might not be.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Be careful that you do not trip over your own shoelaces. The only obstacles in your path are the ones you put there yourself.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If it's up to you to make plans for a get-together with friends, give thought to who is involved. Don't invite anyone who hasn't been getting along with everyone else. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

Once taken, there's no getting back

How can an inanimate object kill people? Simple: You put a person with a motive behind a car, a fork, knife, crossbow, gun or a metal pole, and they'll injure or kill someone. You take the tool away from the killer, the killer gets creative and uses other tools. See "shank" in a search. Have we not learned from the Prohibition era what not to do when it comes to banning things?

Anyway, that's not entirely why I'm responding. Letter writer John Stuhr talks about putting sanctions on cars like there isn't enough anyway. They've been working on completely destroying the automotive hobby for years, due to unrelated events.

There's nothing we automotive enthusiasts can do because we simply do not have the strength in numbers that would prevent such bills, don't let it happen to guns, people. Unless you want to simply hand your freedom over one day.
ELI JEAN, VIA E-MAIL

An analogy rotten as bad fruit salad

Re: "Cars, also a weapon" (Metro, April 15) How is your analogy faulty? Let me count the ways: 1) Guns are weapons, PERIOD, and were invented solely for killing either animals or people. It is the only tool that mankind uses that has that express purpose; 2) There ARE restrictions and government regulation of automobiles — got a license? Ahem; 3) Just like is done for cars, when moms (and dads) get MAD, they insist on common-sense restrictions; 4) Yes, it certainly is healthier to take a bus or train. It's also healthier not to own military assault weapons and 30-clip magazines. Please, refrain from mixing apples and oranges, unless you're making fruit salad — or better, ambrosia.
KATE LERNER, VIA E-MAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them a brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

6	8	7	3			1		
		4			8	7		
					6			4
4		9				8		
		3	8	2	1	9		
		8				6		7
3			2					
		2	5			3		
		1			7	5	2	8

	1		4			9		6
8		4	3				2	5
2	8		1		4		6	
4								1
	3		2		6		9	4
9	4				5	6		8
3		5			2		1	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

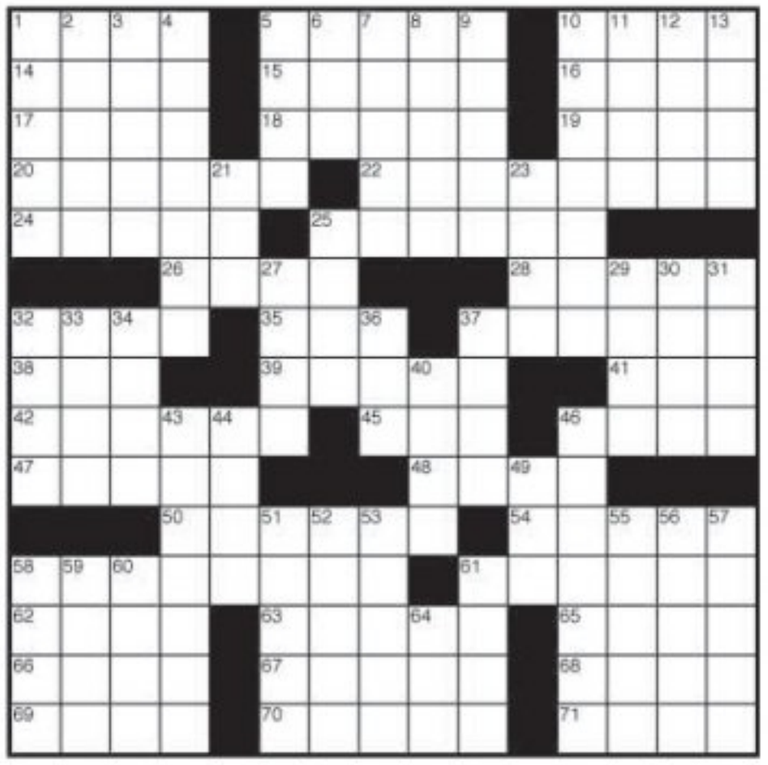
Crossword

Across
1 Wolfish look
5 Ale portions
10 Fizzy drink
14 — mater
15 Hayes or Asimov
16 Part of Q.E.D.
17 Pager's sound
18 Evening wrap
19 Salamander
20 Broaden, in a way
22 Same old same old
24 Hen
25 Movie theater
26 Costa —
28 Some stadiums
32 Art colony in New Mexico
35 P.O. service
37 Lasso parts
38 Joule fraction
39 Craggy abode
41 Absorb, as costs
42 Intrepid
45 — -fi flick
46 Without
47 Archaeology find
48 Dash
50 Fell short
54 Squander
58 More delightful
61 Clergy member
62 In a dither
63 Merrily
65 Green Hornet's valet
66 Prefix for "physics"
67 Keep — — out for
68 Hoople expletive
69 Orange skin
70 Sly tactics
71 Edit outh

Down
1 Sticker
2 Helen, in Spanish
3 Abrasive mineral
4 Light swords
5 "Oh, nonsense!"
6 Devotee
7 Wynonna's ma
8 Prey grabber
9 Public tiff
10 Peso fraction
11 Hydrox rival
12 Grassy expanse
13 Legal rep
21 Dernier —
23 Melville work
25 — au lait
27 Jagged rock
29 Between ports
30 Scrawny
31 Mach 1 breakers of yore
32 Kennedy and Koppel
33 What Hamlet smelled (2 wds.)
34 Horrible boss
36 JAMA readers
37 Buzz's capsule-mate
40 Froze over
43 Against the rules
44 Newman's "Hud" co-star
46 Had a candy bar
49 Dazzle
51 Stogie
52 Reeves of "The Matrix"
53 City, canal and lake
55 Phase
56 Kind of eclipse
57 Form a gully
58 Bedroom fixture
59 Pointed arch
60 November word
61 Deli loaves
64 Caustic substance

Yesterday's answer

S	K	I	P	■	R	I	D	E	R	■	O	R	Z	O
T	E	A	R	■	E	C	O	L	E	■	T	I	E	D
A	R	G	O	■	F	O	U	L	S	■	T	O	R	O
B	R	O	O	D	I	N	G	■	O	R	A	T	O	R
■	■	■	F	A	T	■	S	L	O	W	■	■	■	■
L	A	S	E	R	S	■	C	I	C	A	D	A	S	■
E	L	U	D	E	■	S	O	O	N	■	E	G	O	■
V	I	R	■	■	S	H	R	U	G	■	M	A	W	■
E	G	G	■	■	P	U	R	R	■	H	A	U	T	E
E	N	E	M	I	E	S	■	■	L	E	E	R	E	D
■	■	■	I	N	C	H	■	■	E	R	R	■	■	■
S	H	R	A	N	K	■	J	U	G	B	A	N	D	S
W	O	O	S	■	L	A	U	R	A	■	T	E	R	A
A	L	U	M	■	E	X	A	L	T	■	E	M	U	S
G	E	T	A	■	S	E	N	S	E	■	D	O	M	E



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Cambridge College is an accredited, non-profit institution that has been the local leader in providing degree programs for a diverse population of adult learners since 1971. With flexible night and weekend scheduling and a top-flight faculty of professional instructors, the College is dedicated to providing adult learners academically excellent, time-efficient, and cost-effective higher education.

Cambridge College enrolls more than 7,000 students each year in its four schools: Undergraduate Studies, Education, Psychology and Counseling, and Management. Offering undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate level degree programs, the College is a top choice of teachers, aspiring teachers, counselors, therapists, business managers, bachelor's degree seekers, and more.

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To learn more, come to the Cambridge College information session on Tuesday, May 7th at 6:00 pm at the main campus, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, between Harvard and Central squares. To RSVP or for more information, go to www.cambridgecollege.edu/educate, or call 800-548-1096 and ask to speak with an admissions counselor.

Cambridge College

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or call **800-548-1096** and ask to speak with an admissions counselor.

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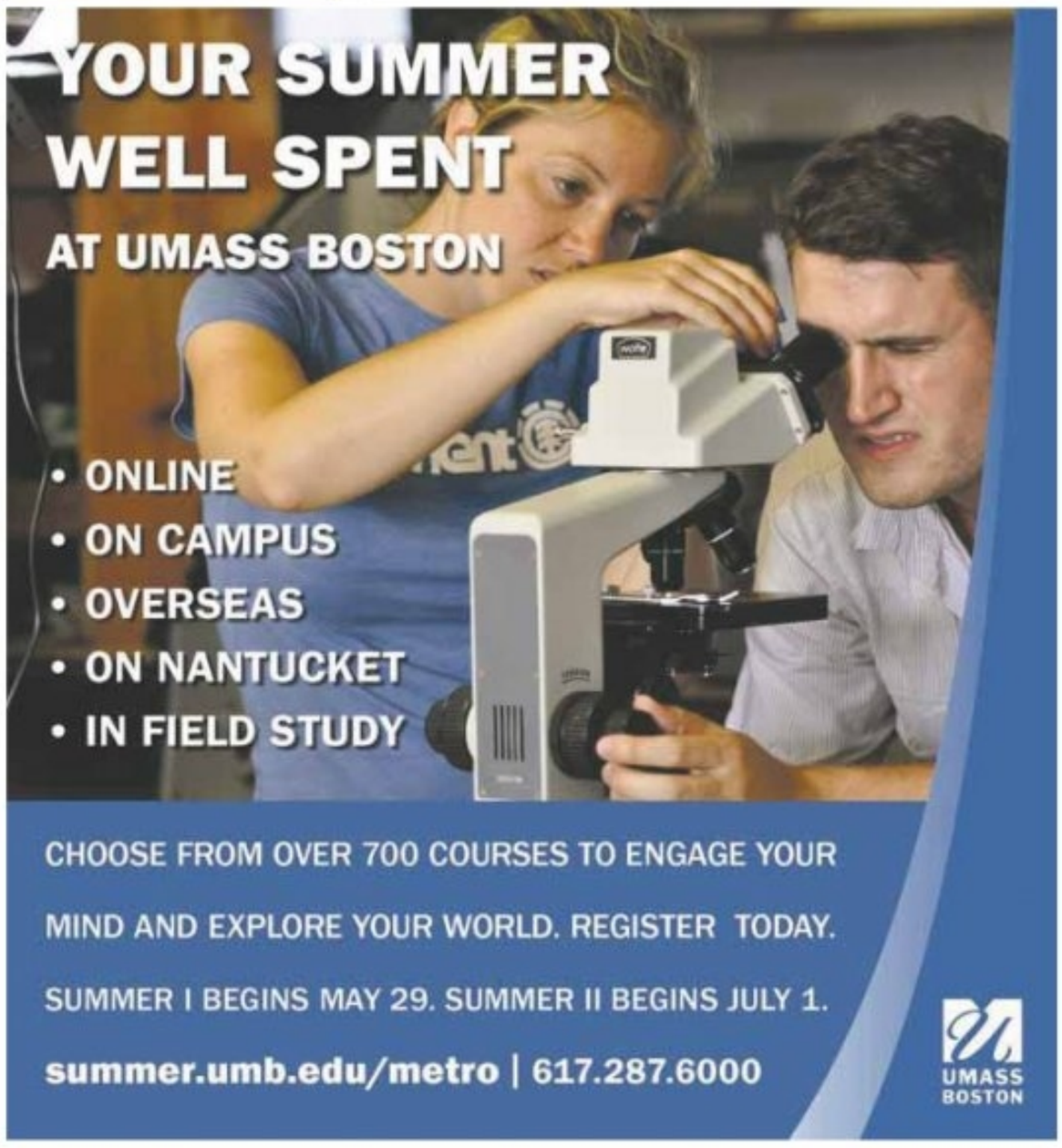

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- Marketing Officer
- Corporate Auditor or Consultant
- Finance Compliance Education Coordinator
- Business Magazine Writer

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NECB's program is directed by a staff of business professionals and faculty who are versed in regulatory issues, business ethics, finance and accounting, government administration, and more. Courses last for five weeks, and students can complete the program in 18 months with continuous enrollment. Most classes require individual papers, and a few contain group work.

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The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts Cooks Up Food for the Soul

On any given day at The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, you might find military veterans crafting mushroom-stuffed ravioli or baking towering cheese soufflés. A former finance manager enrolled in the professional program could be searing sea bass one kitchen over from an aspiring chocolatier perfecting her cappuccino-cream truffles in pastry class. The group is diverse, but all students at The CSCA gather with a common purpose: to feed their minds, to feed their bodies, and above all – to feed their souls.

Established in 1974 by Chef Roberta Dowling, The Cambridge School of Culinary Arts has welcomed thousands of students eager to pursue their passion for food. The curriculum at The CSCA focuses as much on an education of the senses as mastery of classical and contemporary techniques. Students are taught the importance of touch, sight, smell, and sound in every aspect of food and its preparation. This hands-on approach encourages students to discover both beauty and complexity within the wide-ranging world of food. At the core of every class at The CSCA is a commitment to the student experience, respect for culinary diversity, and, most importantly, the notion that food is a celebration of life.

Four unique courses of study allow students to choose a program that suits both their current lifestyle and future goals: the 37-week Professional Chef's and Professional Pastry programs, and the 16-week Culinary Certificate and Certificate Pastry programs. The structure of each intensive, comprehensive curriculum allows students to receive a top-notch culinary education in a manageable amount of time, and with a maximum of 15 students per instructor, each student receives individual attention and instruction. All programs are taught by a talented staff of chef instructors from around the world, including New England's only French Master Pastry Chef, Delphin Gomes. Upon graduation, The CSCA offers lifelong career placement services.

Graduates of The CSCA have gone on to become executive chefs, restaurateurs, food writers, caterers, private chefs, and food stylists. Alumni have appeared on the Food Network's Cupcake Wars and Throwdown with Bobby Flay, opened nationally acclaimed restaurants, and even won such prestigious awards as Food & Wine's Best New Chef.

In addition to culinary training programs, The CSCA offers an extensive recreational program designed to give amateur chefs hands-on experience in the world of specialty cooking. These one-time classes explore all corners of the diverse culinary landscape, from sushi rolling and Moroccan cuisine to grilling and barbeque.

The CSCA is currently accepting applications for all May 2013 programs, with classes beginning on April 30, 2013.

For more detailed information about these and many other program offerings, or to sign up for an information session on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 PM, please visit **www.cambridgeculinary.com** or call **617.354.2020.**

The Cambridge School *of* Culinary Arts

Now Accepting Applications for All May 2013 Programs
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- Certificate Pastry Program
- Professional Chef's Program
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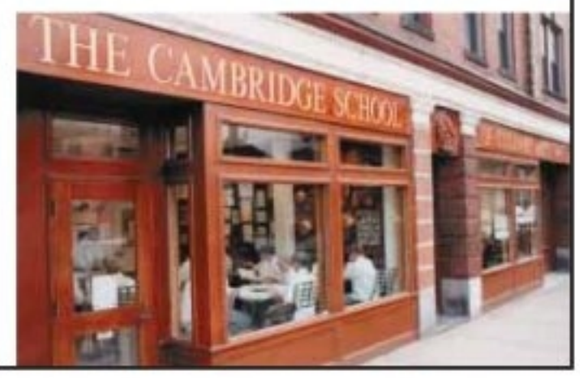

school of fashion design

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CLASSES START JUNE 10TH

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The Heart of Boston Fashion

school of fashion design

The School of Fashion Design was established in 1934 and is the only educational institution in Massachusetts dedicated exclusively to the study of fashion design. A curriculum has been developed that stresses a solid foundation in traditional techniques, addresses the technological demands of the contemporary market and remains innovative by evolving with the industry. It speaks to those desiring to embark on a corporate design career, explore entrepreneurial opportunities, or just continue their education.

Over 75 years of experience affords The School of Fashion Design a unique perspective when it comes to providing a comprehensive and competitive fashion education. The process includes the mastery of design atelier disciplines -- both old world couture concepts and their contemporary digital age counterparts -- as well as a demanding work ethic that provides you with rewards beyond a certificate or diploma. You learn how to be the best.

Newbury Street is the ultimate fashion destination in Boston and the School of Fashion Design is at the heart of it. 136 Newbury Street is situated among some of the most stylish establishments in the city and the building houses five levels of classrooms, workshops, a computer lab and two resource libraries.

Coursework begins at the beginning, so even individuals that do not have experience drawing or sewing can start from scratch. Instructors bring their professional industry experience into the classroom providing students with a unique environment to prepare for fashion careers. Internships with local designers as well as larger corporations provide students with practical workplace experience.

The School of Fashion Design offers a combination of professionalism and individual attention to each student's needs. Many School of Fashion Design graduates have gone on to become industry leaders in Boston, nationally and abroad. ***How will you be a part of history and make your mark on fashion at the School of Fashion Design?***

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Prospective students interested in learning more about the School of Fashion Design may contact the school at 617.536.9343, email us at SFDBoston@aol.com or visit the school's website at schooloffashiondesign.org

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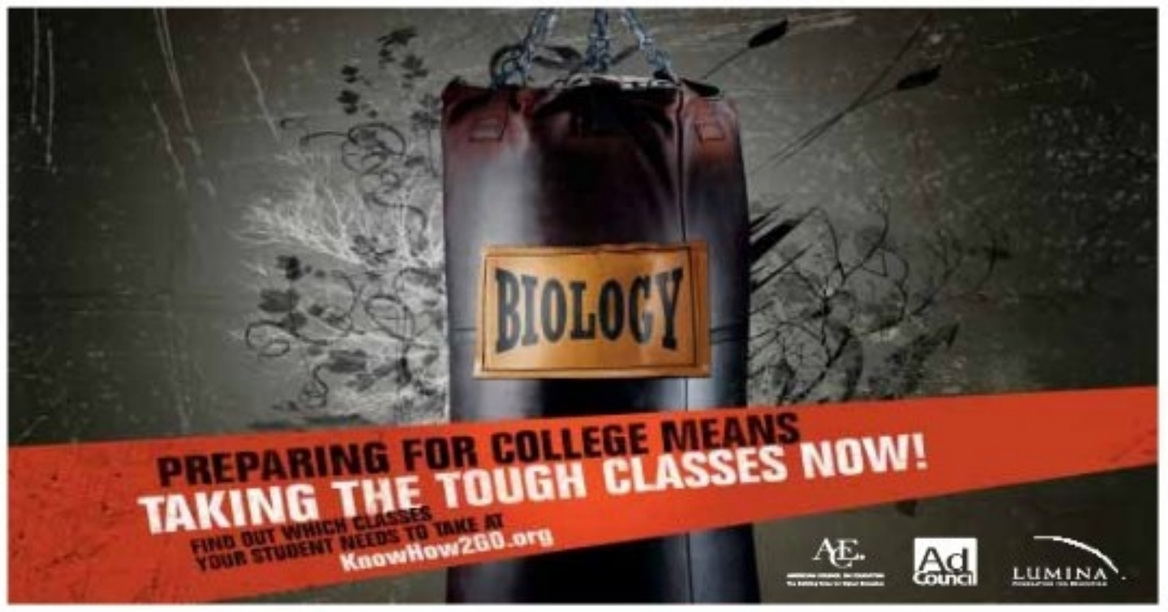

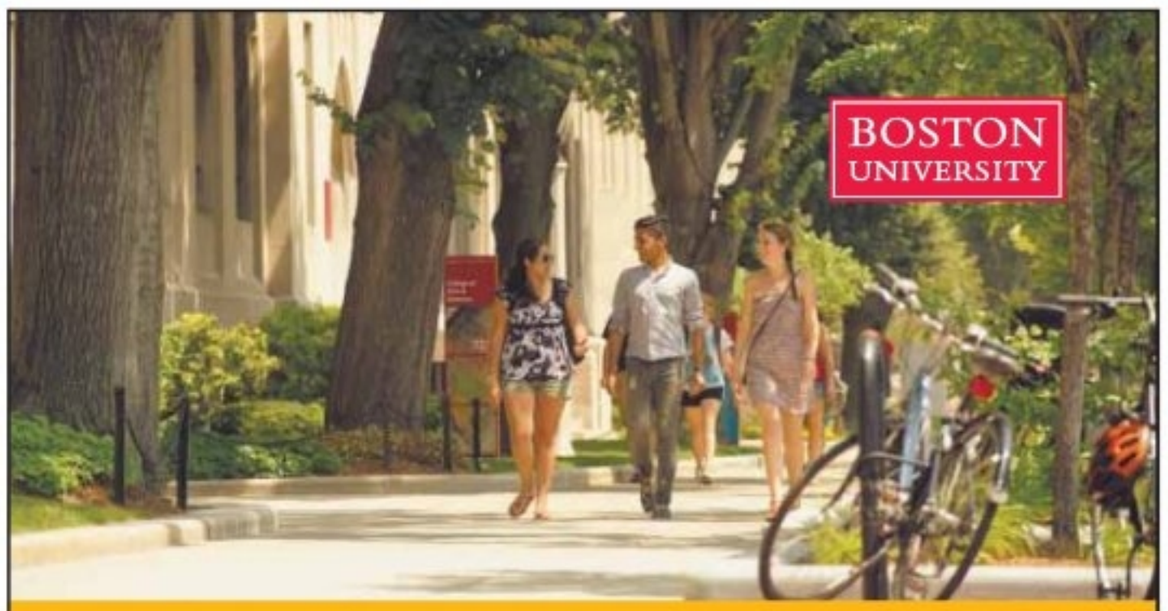

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY

The Boston Marathon finish line was a scene of tragedy, not victory, yesterday. / GETTY IMAGES

A day of real-life loss affects day reserved for playing field wins

Boston Marathon.
The sports world halted in the Hub when two explosions took place at the finish line.

On a day regarded by many as the best sports day in the city of Boston, thoughts couldn't have been further away from any sort of track or field competition at day's end.

The two explosions at the finish line of the Boston Marathon halted the typically ceaseless Boston sports universe. The Marathon, the premier road race in the world, was suspended indefinitely. The Bruins postponed their scheduled Monday night game at TD Garden against the Senators.

But the day did begin with a great deal of joy.

Marblehead, Mass., native Shalane Flanagan was in the mix with the front-runners of the women's Marathon field and put up a strong effort as the hometown favorite, placing fourth. Kenya's Rita Jeptoo dashed to the win, overtaking Ana Dulce Felix, late in the race. It was Jeptoo's second win at Boston as she had also taken the crown in 2006. American Jason Hartmann also nabbed a fourth place finish, but Lelisa Desisa Benti proved too strong in the men's field.

Baseballreference.com will forever show that the Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays, 3-2. It was a walk-off win that thrilled a sell-out crowd at Fenway Park. High-level athletic competition was still taking place in the city as of 2:45 p.m..

There were then a reported 4,500 runners that did not finish the race due to the suspension of the Marathon after the explosions.

"There were runners cussing and swearing when they realized what was happening," Henry Art, a 68-year-old runner from Western Massachusetts who was racing in his 13th Boston Marathon told Metro. "Not because they couldn't finish, but because they couldn't imagine why someone would do something like this."

For about 40 seconds after the explosions, many confused runners continued to cross a line that typically leads to an area of unbridled joy.

But that wasn't the case yesterday, a Patriots Day that will be remembered more for real-life losses than triumphant playing field wins.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Marathon suspended

"There were runners cussing and swearing when they realized what was happening. Not because they couldn't finish, but because they couldn't imagine why someone would do something like this."

Henry Art, a 68-year-old runner from Western Mass., racing in his 13th Boston Marathon
On how some of the 4,500 runners who did not cross the Marathon finish line reacted.

MLB

Red Sox grab walk-off win over Tampa Bay Rays

The Red Sox allowed Andrew Bailey to save face as Mike Napoli's double in the bottom half of the ninth inning plated Dustin Pedroia to give the Red Sox a 3-2 win yesterday at Fenway Park. It was Boston's second walk-off win in three games.

"The key was, despite the blown save, Andrew did a great job of shutting it off right there and keeping it tied," manager John Farrell said. "Much like we've seen in a number of games over the course of the season, we continue to grind away. Mike gets a breaking ball up in the zone and Pedey, who has such a feel on the base paths, there was no hesitation on his part and scored from first and we walked off once again. I can't say enough of the way we continue to compete."

Andrew Bailey blew his first save of the season by allowing a run in the ninth, spoiling a tremendous start from Ryan Dempster, who allowed just one run on two hits over seven innings.

The Red Sox swept the Rays in their rain-shortened three-game series and have now won three of their first four series' of the season. The team is now in Cleveland for a three-game set with the Indians and former manager Terry Francona. Felix Doubront (0-0) will get the nod tonight (7:05 p.m., NESN), and the Indians will counter with Ubaldo Jimenez (0-1). **RYAN HANNABLE**

3 SPORTS

Boston Marathon

Local sports teams react

Tonight's Celtics-Pacers game at TD Garden has been canceled due to yesterday's explosions at the Boston Marathon finish line and there are no plans by the NBA to make up the game. The NBA playoffs begin this weekend.

The Boston Bruins postponed their scheduled game against the Senators last night.

Red Sox outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury tweeted: "Praying for those effected [sic] by the explosions at the marathon #Godblessboston"

The Patriots postponed their pre-draft press conference.

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